and promoting technological improvement to improve energy efficiency have led to an increase in energy efficiency of the urea producing industry by 12-13% over the last 15 years as has been noted in the report of the High Powered Review Committee on Fertilizer Pricing.

Environment projects launched between 1996—2000

1414. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the environment projects launched by Government in 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) the funds earmarked for those projects and the amount allocated by Government for those projects;

(c) the actual amount spent on those projects; and

(d) the year-wise and the project-wise break-up thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing several schemes under which large number of projects are taken up. Year-wise plan allocation and expenditure from 1996-97 to 1999-2000 are given below.

Years	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure
1996-1997	469.40	456.39	429.28
1997-1998	543.70	440.00	406.70
1998-1999	704.09	468.00	498.05
1999-2000	700.00	610.00	551.74

Damage to forests corridor in Orissa, M.P., Bihar, W.B.

1415. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that forest corridor connections between Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal are getting severely damaged due to illicit forest clearance, mining, etc.;

(b) whether Central/State Governments are considering to undertake any steps to reverse this trend; and

(c) if so, in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) A statement indicating the change in tree/forest cover of the district adjoining States of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, based on State of Forest Report, 1997, published by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, is enclosed. (*See* below)

(b) and (c) The Central Government, realising the paramount necessity for protection of various areas/corridors for the cause of wildlife, has already informed all the State Governments/Union Territories Administrations regarding its decision not to permit such developmental activities inside National Parks/Sanctuaries and Tiger Reserve areas that are not in consonance with the section 29 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. In respect of proposals, which do not involve Sanctuary/National Park areas but are rich in wildlife or forms corridor for movement/migration of wild animals, the specific comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State has been made mandatory so as to protect the sensitive areas.

The Central Govt. has also taken a decision to allow fresh mining leases in the forest areas only after States/UTs justify the same from mineral availability point of view and that also after a detailed environmental impact assessment is carried out.

The Central Govt. has also identified elephant corridors in various States including that in the States of Orissa, Bihar and West Bengal. The financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 62.09 lakhs has already been provided by the Central Govt. during the years 1993-94 to 1998-99 under Project Elephant for restoration/establishment of the Corridors in the above mentioned three States.

Statement

"DAMAGE TO FORESTS' CORRIDOR IN ORISSA, M.P., BIHAR, W.B."

S. No.	Bordering Districts	Change in Tree/Forest cover between 1995 and 1997 (in sq. km)
	A. ORISSA	
1.	Bargarh	+10
2.	Jaipur	+6
3.	Jharsugda	−2
4.	Kalahandi	−5
5.	Keonjhar	−148
6.	Koraput	−51
7.	Malkangiri	−94
8.	Mayurbhanj	−206
9.	Nawapara	−2
10.	Nawrangpur	−21
11.	Sundergarh	−2
	B. MADHYA PRADESH	
1.	Bastar	+751
2.	Raigarh	+154
3.	Raipur	−611
4.	Sarguja	−535
	C. BIHAR	
1.	Dhanbad	+2
2.	Hazaribagh	+8
3.	Ranchi	−6
4.	Purnia	Nil

5.	Santhal Pargana	+16
6.	Singhbhum	−44
7.	Palamu	−8
	D. WEST BENGAL	
1.	Darjeeling	+7
2.	Purulia	+9

Death of tigers and deer in Tripura

1416. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some Royal Bengal Tigers and Cheetal deer have died in the Sipahi Jola Santuary in Tripura;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that in the recent days deaths of wild animals in various sanctuaries across the country were reported;

(c) if so, what were the reasons attributed to each case, as studied by Government, if any; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to prevent such deaths in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) As reported by the Chief Wild Life Warden, Tripura, there are no royal Bengal tigers and Cheetal deers in Sepahijala Sanctuary and therefore the question of their deaths does not arise.

(b) to (d) There is no unusual increase in death of wild animals in any of the sanctuary across the country.